

I cannot support the Joint Parks draft agreement dated 10-8-2020. This agreement would place an unfair financial burden and long term risk on the Village of Caledonia taxpayers.

I certainly understand why Mount Pleasant is in favor of this agreement as they assume zero financial risk, can opt back in after five years without any ramifications yet never give up ownership of the property. If Caledonia is to assume 100% of capital projects, operational expense and responsibility involved in the park, it's reasonable and expected to assume that Caledonia would also own 100% of the park property.

An argument can be made that it is not optimal to have two Villages involved in the operation of the park. I agree, but that is not the cause of the past poor performance and embezzlement issues. Lack of leadership, oversight and a very weak accounting system were the real culprits. *(As you may recall I have warned this board and every board since I arrived on the board in 2006 that the "Quickbooks" accounting system in place was completely inappropriate for Village use and put the Village at risk as it is full of security holes and weak operational processes due to its design as a home accounting system).* Dedicated committee members with solid managerial experience, a real accounting system (Civic Systems), strengthened accounting processes and proper board oversight are needed.

I am not privy to the negotiation sessions that have resulted in the draft agreement. Perhaps the board did not think this through very well which resulted in conflicting objectives.

In my opinion this agreement does not work for Caledonia. Short of Mount Pleasant relinquishing 100% of their ownership stake I reject the risk that this agreement places on Caledonia. Perhaps the proper solution that we're left with at this point is joint ownership, joint committee and equally shared capital and operational costs.